

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 IO-12

EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /115 W
----- 063239

R 301100 Z MAR 73

FM USMISSION BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1603

AMEMBASSY BONN

INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF

AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMCONSUL STUTTGART

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 0564

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, GW, GE

SUBJECT: FATE OF WEST BERLIN'S INNER- GERMAN TRADE OFFICE

REF: BONN 4482; BERLIN 116

1. AT THE AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LUNCHEON YESTERDAY,
FRG MINISTER OF ECONOMICS FRIDERICHs TOLD ME THAT FOR ALL
PRACTICAL PURPOSES A DECISION HAS BEEN TAKEN TO LEAVE THE
IZT BERLIN OFFICE (TREUHANDSTELLE) IN TACT. HE SAID
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IN HIS JUDGMENT, AND THAT OF HIS COLLEAGUES, IT MADE NO SENSE TO TAMPER WITH THIS ARRANGEMENT AT THIS TIME. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAD ALREADY BITTEN OFF AS MUCH AS IT COULD DIGEST IN THE BASIC TREATY. HE, FRIDERICH, SAW NO ADVANTAGE IN MAKING AN ADDITIONAL GESTURE TO THE GDR AT THIS JUNCTURE, PARTICULARLY IN THE ABSENCE OF A MEANINGFUL QUID PRO QUO. MOREOVER, HE WENT ON TO SAY, HE AND HIS COLLEAGUES WERE CONCERNED THAT IF THE OFFICE WERE ELIMINATED, BERLIN'S INVOLVEMENT IN FRG/ GDR TRADE MIGHT BE CALLED INTO QUESTION.

2. MINISTER FRIDERICH SAID HE ANTICIPATED NO FURTHER DIFFICULTY ON THIS MATTER ON THE WEST GERMAN SIDE, AND IN FACT MADE A STATEMENT TO THE PRESS ON THIS SUBJECT (MAINTAINING BERLIN IZT OFFICE) THE EVENING BEFORE COMING TO BERLIN IN ORDER TO END THE PUBLIC DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE.

3. OF COURSE, FRIDERICH'S VIEWS ON THIS MATTER ARE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME AS THOSE OF THE BERLIN SENAT, ALTHOUGH THE SENAT AND THE GOVERNMENT MAYOR AS OF LAST NIGHT FOUND THEMSELVES IN THE UNCOMFORTABLE POSITION OF APPEARING TO SUPPORT AN FDP MINISTER AGAINST THE SPD CHANCELLERY; A ROLE IT FINDS DIFFICULT IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE TO HANDLE. KLEIN

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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TAGS: ETRD, GE, GM
To: BONN
BREMEN
BRUSSELS
COPENHAGEN
DUBLIN
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